

Khan Academy builds a global classroom with help from [Dropbox for Business](#)

Khan Academy is a nonprofit organization with a mission to provide free, first-class, video-based education to anyone, anywhere in the world. Khan Academy connects students, teachers, coaches, and others with informative resources on dozens of subjects. With a library of more than 3,600 videos, Khan Academy's website currently attracts nearly 60 million visitors every month.



Moving through the learning curve

Creating an engaging, accessible, e-learning curriculum not only requires vast amounts of content, it also demands a broad scope of technological capabilities — including flexible sharing and plenty of file storage. Khan Academy learned this the hard way over the past six years in its quest to deliver free e-lectures and educational exercises to people around the world.

Relying on email, external hard drives, and even some personal Dropbox accounts, Khan Academy employees did the best they could to accommodate video assets and company documents. But as their lecture library — and staff of contributors — grew, employees found themselves facing anxiety-filled decisions about which content took priority and which could be moved or deleted.

The organization needed a solution that could keep pace with its expansion, so it turned to Dropbox for Business. Esther Cho, Executive Assistant to Founder Sal Khan, remembers, “When we got 10TB of space through Dropbox for Business, it was like a party in here. It felt like we suddenly had an abundance of resources, and it completely eased everyone’s anxiety. We could finally stop worrying about deleting or transferring files because there wasn’t enough space.”

“Dropbox for Business gives us one centralized place for everything — the place of all truth. You go to that place of all truth and you can get any of the materials you need.”

Creating a more structured environment

Khan Academy now uses Dropbox for Business as a tool for storing and sharing virtually everything — from corporate policy paperwork to the educational videos it creates. “All of our HR and administrative materials are in Dropbox,” explains Minli Virdone, Lead of Strategic Initiatives. “So if there’s a change, for example, to the health insurance plan, we just tell people where it

Company: [Khan Academy](#)

Requirements

- Extensive file storage space
- An efficient way to share important documents and projects
- The ability to easily deliver large files to outside collaborators

Solution: [Dropbox for Business](#)

Results

- Boundless storage and simplified sharing for files of all sizes
- Freedom from anxiety about running out of space
- Flexibility to access projects from any location

is in Dropbox. Then they can print their own paperwork — which is really helpful.”

Photos and videos from company events are also made available in Dropbox. When Khan Academy hosted its first middle school summer camp this year, employees stored all of the related event files in Dropbox — and saved money by not having to purchase an external drive. After the program ended, the company used Dropbox to archive all the media coverage for employees to view.

Dropbox for Business also acts as a repository for Khan Academy’s grant proposal information. To help keep grant documents and associated action items neatly organized, Virdone created a matrix that links to each file in Dropbox. “I no longer have to be responsible for sending anything to the people involved in the grant-writing process,” she says. “It’s a great help!”

When it comes to creating and translating educational videos, Khan Academy staff often uses Dropbox for Business to store and share raw content before it’s uploaded to the web. Dean of Translations, Bilal Musharraf, adds, “When we enlist outside companies to do bulk translations, I give them access to our shared video archive, and they immediately have all the files they need.”

Translators aren’t the only external parties given access to Khan Academy assets. When founder Sal Khan speaks at events like TEDx or the Social Innovation Summit, event coordinators get advance copies of videos and presentation decks through Dropbox. “I just sent a video to the U.S. Department of State when Sal spoke for its Webchat Series,” Cho says. “Because I used Dropbox, the Department got it right away. If I’d had to download that onto a flash drive and mail it, it would’ve been much more time consuming and stressful!”

The power of flexibility

Dropbox for Business has transformed operations at Khan Academy. Staff members no longer have to send files back and forth, keep track of edited versions, or

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Bilal Musharraf, Dean of Translations, Khan Academy

worry about buying additional storage space. As Virdone sees it, “Dropbox for Business gives us one centralized place for everything — the place of all truth. You go to that place of all truth and you can get any of the materials you need.”

The beauty of that “place of all truth” is that even people outside of Khan Academy can be granted access to it when necessary. Virdone says, “The fact that we can share files through a link with people who don’t have a Dropbox account makes a big difference.”

Another Dropbox for Business feature revered by Khan Academy staff is the ability to access files remotely. With a number of international contributors and domestic employees working from home offices, having files synced and up-to-date is crucial. Doctoral Fellow Karl Wendt credits remote access with simplifying the editing of Khan Academy videos. “With Dropbox, I can modify videos from my house or the road,” he says. “It’s much more convenient than having to go into the office or worry about an external drive.”



About Dropbox

Dropbox lets you bring your docs, photos, and videos anywhere and share them easily. Keep files up-to-date across multiple devices and stay in sync with your team — effortlessly. Dropbox for Business also offers administrative tools, phone support, and as much space as you need.

To learn more about what Dropbox for Business can do for your organization, please visit www.dropbox.com/business or email us at sales@dropbox.com.